

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for the courtesies extended in the recent in-person interview held with Applicant's representative. The amendments and remarks presented herein are consistent with those discussions. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, mailed October 1, 2007, considered and rejected claim 1-39, 41 and 42. Each of the claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Hardy* (U.S. Publ. No. 2005/0044152).¹

By this paper, claims 1-3, 5-9, 11, 12, 15-18, 20, 21, 23-28, 30-34, 37 and 42 have been amended, claim 43 added, and claim 22 cancelled.² Accordingly, following this paper, claims 1-21, 23-39 and 41-43 are pending, of which claims 1, 20, 34, 37 and 43 are the only independent claims at issue.

1. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

As discussed with the Examiner, the claims are generally directed to a methods and computer program products for allowing a variety of applications to initiate communication with a contact by utilizing a centralized store of contact information. As recited in independent claim 1, for example, a plurality of contacts are created with contact information that can be utilized by the various communication applications to initiate network communication with the plurality of contacts, and the contact information is stored in a centralized contact store accessible to the various applications. A contact interface is also provided which displays contact information in multiple regions of a display window. The same display window is adapted such that it initially, simultaneously, and separately displays a contacts region, which includes contact information of one or more contacts, as well as a links region displaying one or more user-selectable links that launch one or more of the multiple communication applications that initiate network communication with the contact. The links region thus displays links, separate from contact information, and further includes a link for only each type of contact method available to the computing system in view of the applications installed and the amount of contact information available. Thus, for contact information that includes a voice phone

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status of the cited art at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Support for the claim amendments and new claims is found, by way of example and not limitation, in the disclosure found in paragraphs 115, 116 and 127-134, as well as in Figures 5-7 and 9 of Applicant's originally filed application.

number, email address and IM account information, and a computer which includes an email service, an IM service, and an electronic fax application, the links region can include a link to email and a link to send an instant message, while links for voice and fax communication are excluded inasmuch as insufficient contact information exists in the centralized database for a fax to be sent, and whereas no voice telephone application exists for voice telephony. A communication application can then be launched in response to user selection of a corresponding link from the same window, but separate region, displaying the contact information, and the communication application may then receive access to a contact and its corresponding contact information through the contact interface or one or more other interfaces. The ability of the communication applications to then retrieve the contact information and utilize the information to initiate network communication with the contact is then enabled.

Independent claims 34 and 37 are directed to a method and computer program product, respectively, for implementing a similar method in which contact information is modified and updated on an application-specific database, and then accessed from the application-specific database. Independent claim 43 is directed to a contact management system that includes a remote store with application-specific databases and a client system. The client system further includes a host layer having applications and a shell user interface, as well as extensible controls, a centralized contact store, and a synchronization layer.

Independent claim 20 is directed to a computer program product which includes computer-executable instructions for implementing a method generally corresponding to the method of claim 1, and further reciting wherein a launched application is provided access to the contact information through the contact interface, which is external to the communication applications, and through one or more extensible controls provided with the contact interface. At least one of the extensible controls loads within the communication application to access the contact information from the centralized contact store. The controls can further act as a security mechanism to prevent the launched application from accessing contacts and/or contact information that a user of the computing system has not authorized.

As discussed with the Examiner, while *Hardy* generally relates to a system in which contact information is shared between an address book and an instant messaging application, it fails to disclose or suggest each and every element of the pending claims. For example, among other things, the cited reference fails to disclose or suggest a contact interface in which separate link and contact information regions are displayed simultaneously and separately, upon the initial loading of the display window, as recited in combination with the other claim elements. In fact, *Hardy* expressly

teaches that instead of displaying links separately and upon the initial loading of the contact information page of the contact interface, links to applications are provided in a contact interface only within embedded links on the contact information itself.

In particular, *Hardy* discloses a system for integrating an address book application with an instant messaging application in a mobile station. (*Abstract*; ¶ 4). In the system, the mobile device includes an instant messaging (IM) application as a software application that includes a user interface for creating, viewing and managing instant messages and IM-related instant messaging contact information. (¶ 17). The IM application stores the IM information in an IM database, and an IM library application provides a generic interface to the IM database. (*Id.*).

The mobile device also includes an address book application as a software application used for creating, viewing, and managing address book data such as contact names, addresses, email addresses, telephone numbers, etc. (¶ 18). This information is stored in an address book database, and an address library interface provides a generic interface to the library of address book information. (*Id.*).

To share the information, an aggregated data and facilities database may establish a relationship between the address book application and the IM application, thereby allowing the mobile device to relate IM data from the IM database with address book data from the address book database. (¶ 19). In this manner, the address book application can then be used to manage data from any available communication method, and address book information can be manipulated from the IM application. (*Id.*). In this manner, the IM application accesses and displays address book records without executing any address book software. (¶ 24).

When information is displayed, within the address book or the IM application, the address book fields can include links to launch other applications. (*Id.*). Thus, a voice communication application can be launched by selecting a displayed phone number field from an address book entry, or IM communication can be launched by selecting an IM handle from the address book application. (¶¶ 24, 34).

Accordingly, *Hardy* discloses that when contact information is collected, an application can launch communication with the contact by selecting a link on the contact information itself. Notably, this is directly in contrast to the pending claims, in which a contacts region and a links region are each simultaneously and initially displayed, but in which they are maintained separately. This is particularly so considering that the links region is also adapted so that it displays only links for each type of communication method directly available to the computing system in view of the communication applications installed and the amount of contact information available. Thus, the

links region will not display a link when either insufficient contact data exists for the method of communication, or when a suitable communication application to use existing contact data does not exist.

With respect to claim 20, Applicant further notes that *Hardy* also fails to disclose or suggest wherein extensible controls are launched within an application and/or in which an extensible control acts as a security mechanism to limit the contacts and contact information available to an application as recited in the pending claims. Indeed, as noted above, *Hardy* expressly teaches that a launched communication application (i.e., the IM application) accesses and displays address book information without any software of the contact interface (i.e., the address book interface). (¶ 24). Further, *Hardy* discloses that any information available to the IM application or the address book information is then made available to the other application. Thus, there is no limitation or security mechanism to limit the access to contacts or contact information. Thus, *Hardy* fails to disclose executing a control provided with the contact interface and loaded within the launched communication application or a security mechanism implemented in an extensible control. Furthermore, there is no disclosure that any available software or control is extensible.

With respect to claim 43, Applicant further notes that, among other things, the cited references fail to disclose or suggest a client device having a centralized contact store and an extensible set of controls in a controls layer, as well as a remote data store. Indeed, in *Hardy*, the disclosed mobile device includes local application-specific stores rather than remote stores as recited. Furthermore, no controls layer is disclosed which includes any extensible controls as recited in combination with the other claim elements.

2. Restriction and Election

As also discussed during the interview with the Examiner, Applicant has hereby amended the claims to include independent claim 43, which recites a contact management system, and generally corresponds to, but is not limited by, the disclosure in Figure 3 and the related text of the original application.

In the interview, Applicant suggested that the inventions claimed in the application are directed to different embodiments that can be subjected to a requirement for restriction and election. Specifically, Applicant noted that the claimed contact management system includes a first invention (corresponding to claims 1-21, 23-39, 41 and 42) that describes methods and computer-readable media for displaying contact information to a user in a display interface having different regions, as

well as a second invention claim 43) for a system that includes a client computing system with various layers, and a remote store communicatively linked to the client computing system.

In view of the difference in scope in the claims, the Examiner appeared to agree to consider whether a requirement for restriction and election is proper. In the event the Examiner agrees with the aforementioned restriction, Applicant provisionally elects the first invention, directed to claims 1-21, 23-39, 41 and 42, and withdraws claim 43 from consideration.

Although the foregoing arguments are specifically related to the independent claims it will be appreciated that, for at least the foregoing reasons, all of the other rejections and assertions of record with respect to the dependent claims are now moot, particularly when considering the combination with elements recited in the corresponding independent claims.³ Therefore, the dependent claims need not be addressed individually.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims 1-39, 41 and 42 are neither anticipated by nor made obvious in view of the cited art of record. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at (801) 533-9800.

Dated this 31st day of October, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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³ It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicants acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicants reserve the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicants specifically request that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required reason to combine/modify the relied upon references with the other reference(s) supporting the Official Notice.